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Development Cooperation Forum

Statement submitted by Nord-Sud XXI, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

Nord-Sud XXI places special importance on the heightened attention given to the Millennium Development Goals, which are truly standards of achievement by which the United Nations commitment to bring social justice to the world will be measured.

We reiterate, as many Governments and members of civil society have done, the need for sufficient investment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We welcome the commitments by some States to provide enhanced resources, especially in areas related to poverty reduction and the reduction of women and children's morality. The provision of adequate resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is an obligation of all States, both in collaboration with the United Nations and separately, which flows directly from articles 55 and 56 of the Charter.

Nord-Sud XXI also recalls that almost a quarter century ago the General Assembly declared the right to development as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized". Furthermore, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and numerous regional human rights instruments commit State parties to ensuring economic, social and cultural rights, including labour rights and rights to health, education and an adequate standard of living.

We also recall the commitments undertaken by States in the Monterrey Consensus and several times since then, which remain unfulfilled, but which constitute authoritative interpretations of their legal obligations. In words, the failure of a State to meet its commitments to finance development is evidence of that State's failure to sufficiently respect its international legal obligation to cooperate to achieve development and respect for human rights.

Finally, Nord-Sud XXI has the following recommendations:

- That a task force be established to review the consistency of policies and principles, good practices and recommendations adopted by the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development for their consistency with international law, including international human rights law
- This task force could include at least five or seven experts drawn from States and civil society, including academic institutions, with due attention for diverse geographical representation
- This task force could be based either in New York or Geneva (where the Human Rights Council is based) and hosted by a permanent mission on a rotating basis or by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme or the International Labour Organization
- This task force should be tasked with both reviewing the work of the High-level Dialogue for its consistency with international law, especially international human rights law, as well as with suggesting ways in which the law can be used to strengthen the work of the High-level Dialogue.